

This constitutional Republic works. The Founding Fathers, which I believe established this through divine providence, established a government based upon compromise, also a government that is concerned about the different branches of government and the checks and balance systems which then were enacted to defend against usurpation by either and each branch.

I just come here today because many times we forget about the great institution in which we serve, about the blessings of freedom and liberties, and that God truly has blessed this Nation and will continue to do so.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1968

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of legislation that I recently introduced, H.R. 1968, the Community Health Workers Act of 2007.

The bill provides Federal support for community health workers, also known as promotoras. Community health workers conduct education and provide prevention information on chronic illnesses to communities of color, the Asian, Latino, African American and even Native American communities. They are able to reach out to patients in ways that traditional health care providers can't, through culturally and linguistically appropriate care. They are trusted by their communities.

Families who interacted with community workers were eight times more likely to obtain health insurance for their children, and their children stayed insured. That is why I strongly believe that the community health workers need to be part of the SCHIP reauthorization bill moving forward in the House.

As the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Health Task Force, I am committed to reducing health care disparities in our country. The legislation will help achieve that goal, and I am proud to have the support of other colleagues here today.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS STILL WANT TO PROVIDE PRESIDENT BLANK CHECK ON IRAQ WAR

(Mr. BUTTERWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERWORTH. Madam Speaker, while the President continues to resist any changes to his failed policy in Iraq, the situation is getting worse, it's getting worse for our troops. American casualties are up 53 percent this year over the same period last year.

Despite the escalating civil war, last week Pentagon officials told 35,000 more American troops that they will be sent to Iraq. Earlier this year, the President said the surge would last a couple of months, but now the adminis-

tration is planning to stretch the plan out for 18 months.

It is increasingly clear that the President's plan to escalate the war in Iraq is not working. The American people overwhelmingly favor a new direction in Iraq and a plan to hold the Iraqi Government accountable for their own nation and their own security, but for some reason Republicans continue to stall, unwilling to break away from President Bush and ignoring all the bad news on the ground.

Madam Speaker, after 4 years of failed policies, we do not need to give the President a blank check.

TRADE AGREEMENTS MUST HAVE INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, last Thursday, the leadership of the House announced a new trade policy for America. And as this body considers future trade agreements, it would be well to look at the House Ways and Means Committee Web site where a one-page policy on a new trade policy for America is stated. That policy states that our new trade policy will ensure trade agreements raise the standard of living, including requiring companies to adopt, maintain and enforce international labor standards and their domestic laws and practices, thus promoting basic worker rights and acceptable working conditions.

We need to make sure that the maintenance and enforcement of those international labor standards are part of any trade agreement on the domestic side of those trade countries that we are negotiating with.

The Constitution of the Soviet Union had great statements about protecting the rights of workers and protecting the rights of individuals, and on paper that's what they said, but in reality they meant little. These trade agreements need to have enforcement on the other side to be effective.

HOMETOWN HEROES' CLAIMS MUST BE RESOLVED

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of our brave men and women in uniform, the police officers, firefighters and other public service officers who protect our communities.

As yesterday was National Peace Officers Memorial Day, there is no better time to call on the Department of Justice to award the benefits due to our law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our Nation.

For 30 years now we have made a strong statement about the value our

Nation places on the contribution for those who serve our community through the Public Safety Officers Benefit plan. About 4 years ago, however, I learned the PSOB was routinely rejecting claims or requiring burdensome documentation from these officers and first responders who died from a heart attack or stroke while serving our communities. I felt that this was wrong, and so did most of my colleagues here in Congress. In a strong bipartisan effort, Congress unanimously passed and the President signed it and the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act became law.

Since 2003, when the law was enacted, only two claims have been awarded out of the more than 240 received, while nearly 40 claims have been rejected. The rest languish in a bureaucratic mess.

I urge the Department of Justice to act swiftly and fairly on the remaining claims and pay these claims to provide this much needed and much deserved benefit as we observe National Police Week.

LESS TROOPS IN BAGHDAD AND MORE COPS IN AMERICA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I thought about what I would use my 1-minute on today, and one thought was to address all the beautiful people that I see have come to Washington and Congress to view our Capitol and our Nation's Capital, and it is a beautiful sight. And another thought was to talk about the need for General Alberto Gonzales to resign to bring back the morale in the Justice Department and the people's faith in that institution. But the bottom line is the thing I campaigned upon is still the most important issue facing America today. We need to bring our troops home, redeploy our troops, and put our resources, financially and also personnel-wise, to work in America, protecting our streets and giving us a more secure country.

We need less troops on the streets of Baghdad and more cops on the streets of Memphis and other cities in this country to fight crime here at home.

GAS PRICES ARE HIGH DUE TO BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO ENACT ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, as we move closer to Memorial Day weekend and the summer months ahead, families in Wisconsin and across the country will be packing up their families to head off on vacation, like up north in Minocqua, Door County in Wisconsin. And once again, gas prices are hitting record highs. American families and